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REMARKS

Upon entry of this Supplemental Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 23-27 as discussed during a telephone call between Examiner Chai and Jeffrey Kuester, an Attorney of Record, on May 3, 2006. While Examiner Chai inquired during that telephone call about the effective date for at least some of the claims that are being canceled, Applicant has canceled those claims merely to advance prosecution but maintains that the claims would nonetheless be allowable if not canceled.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments place the application in better form for examination and add no new matter to the present application. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 23-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

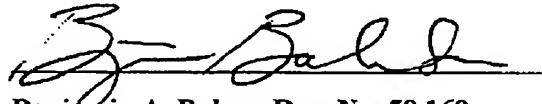
Favorable action in regard to the application is earnestly solicited.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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